



Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTNERS SIGN \$40 MILLION AGREEMENT WITH API AND NCR FOR INTERIM FOX RIVER PROJECTS

CHICAGO (August 14, 2001) — The Fox River Intergovernmental Partners (IGP) today lodged in Federal court a \$40 million interim agreement with Appleton Papers Inc. (API) and NCR Corporation to provide funding for interim site cleanup and natural resource restoration projects on Wisconsin's Lower Fox River and Green Bay.

The agreement is contained in a consent decree lodged with the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. A public comment period will begin after formal notice of the agreement is published in the Federal Register.

API and NCR are parties that have been identified as potentially responsible for the discharge of PCBs to the Fox River system.

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The agreement provides payments of up to \$10 million a year for four years following the effective date of the agreement. The payments will be used to fund cleanup and natural resources restoration projects. In addition, payments will go to the U.S. Department of Interior to pay for a portion of the expenses incurred in developing its Natural Resource Damage Assessment.

Under the agreement, the IGP agrees not to sue API or NCR for the four years covered by the consent decree. In turn, the companies have agreed not to sue the IGP partners over that period. The agreement does not resolve the overall liability of either company for Fox River system contamination.

"This agreement is the result of tremendous cooperation among federal, state and tribal agencies," said John Cruden, Acting Assistant Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice's Environment Division. "It represents an important step for API and NCR toward resolving their ultimate responsibility for cleaning up and restoring the Fox River and Green Bay."

"The IGP is very pleased with this interim agreement," said Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Secretary Darrell Bazzell. "API and NCR deserve credit for stepping up to help maintain momentum for the larger cleanup of the Fox River system."

"U.S. EPA is very pleased that the cleanup and restoration work can proceed under this agreement while a long term solution is being developed," said Regional Administrator Tom Skinner.

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"With today's agreement, and consistent with principles we stated previously, the public

will soon start to see the beginning of significant progress toward the restoration of the Green Bay and Fox River environment,” said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Region 3 Director Bill Hartwig. “We look forward to continuing work with the IGP and the two companies on this important initiative.”

A fact sheet about the agreement has been sent to those on EPA’s Fox River mailing list. It is also available at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/lowerfox.

About the IGP

The IGP operates under a memorandum of agreement signed in July 1997 by the following members: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the WDNR, the U.S. Department of Interior as represented by FWS, the U.S. Department of Commerce as represented by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin.

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